

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed June 19, 2003. In the Office Action, (i) the disclosure was objected to; (ii) the drawings were objected to; (iii) electronic information disclosure statements were objected to; (iv) claims 1-8, 10-12, 24-25, 50-53, 56-58 and 71-80 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a); (v) claims 9, 13-23, and 54-55 were objected to; and (vi) claims 59-70 were indicated as being allowed.

Reexamination and reconsideration of this case is respectfully requested in view of the amendments made herein and the following remarks.

Claims 9, 13, and 54 have been amended by this response. Claims 26-49 were previously canceled without prejudice. Claims 1-8, 10-12, and 24-25 have been further cancelled by this response without prejudice. New dependent claims 81-96 have been added. Accordingly, claims 9, 13-23, 54-55, 59-70, and 81-96 remain at issue in the patent application.

Of the claims remaining at issue, claims 9, 13, 54, and 59 are independent claims.

Applicant believes that no new matter has been added by this response.

I. DISCLOSURE

The Office Action objected to the disclosure as a couple of serial numbers were missing from the applications referred to in the cross-reference to related applications.

Applicant has amended the "Cross Reference to Related Applications" of the specification to include the missing serial numbers.

Applicant believes the amendment made to the specification now makes the objection to the disclosure moot and respectfully requests its withdrawal.

Applicant has further amended the specification to correct incorrect grammar and incorrect reference number usage therein as well as to provide consistency with the formal drawings.

In Brief Description of the Drawings section, a brief description of Figures 4B, 4C, and 9A-9I has been added. The brief description of Figure 4 has been corrected to be a brief description of Figure 4A. The brief description of Figures 10A-10G has also been corrected.

In the Detailed Description section of the application in the paragraph beginning on page 42, line 25 was amended to correct an incorrect reference number "202" to the correct reference number --2202--.

The paragraph beginning on page 43, line 24 was amended to correct an incorrect reference number "2002" to the correct reference number --2202--.

The paragraph beginning on page 45, line 17, a sentence was added describing the pivot-arm actuator 2204' illustrated in Figure 29. Applicants note that the language of the amendment, describing the pivot-arm actuator 2204' (Figure 29), is identical (with exception of the reference numbers) to the description of the pivot-arm actuator 2204 (Figure 25) found in page 41, lines 1-2.

Nine consecutive paragraphs beginning at page 47, line 10 and ending at page 48, line 20 were amended to correct an incorrect reference number. The correct reference number is used in an earlier sentence in each respective paragraph.

The paragraph beginning on page 48, line 25 was amended to include the phrase --and their respective nose receptacles-- before reference numbers "2200A and 2200B" to be consistent with the usage of the reference number 2200 and the illustrations of Figures 33A-33D.

The paragraph beginning on page 54, line 16 was amended to correct the grammar of "replace" and to include a sentence describing the text which has been deleted from Figure 39A by this amendment.

The paragraph beginning on page 54, line 19 was amended to add the reference number 3901 to the word "lever" which was deleted from Figure 39B. A sentence was also added to describe the text "pivot pins" which has been deleted from Figure 39B by this amendment.

The paragraph beginning on page 54, line 32 was amended to correct the grammar by deleting an instance of the word "a".

The paragraph beginning on page 55, line 7 was amended to add the reference number 3902 to the word "holes" which was deleted from Figure 39H. The reference number 3902 is used with "holes" in the second sentence of the paragraph.

Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been added by these amendments to the specification.

II. DRAWINGS

The drawings were objected to in the Office Action as being informal.

Applicant herewith transmits formal drawings of Figures 1-40I.

Applicant believes the submission of formal drawings now makes the objection to the drawings moot and respectfully requests its withdrawal.

Applicant has amended the figures to prepare the formal drawings and to correct inconsistent reference number usage.

Applicant has deleted text from Figures 8A, 8D, 8G, 9A, 9G, 9I, 10A, 10D, 10E, 11C, 34A, 34C, 34E, 35A, 35G, 35E, 36A, 36C, 36G, 39A, 39B, 39C, 39D, 39F, 39G, and 39H.

Figure 13A was amended to show a proper reference to a magnified view of a portion thereof in Figure 13B.

Figure 18D, 22B, 27B, 27C, and 33A-33D were amended to correct incorrect reference number usage.

Figure 29 was amended to remove an extraneous line.

Figure 38E, 40B, and 40D were amended to add reference numbers consistent with their usage in other drawings of the Figures.

Figure 39B was further amended to include a reference number --3901-- to replace "lever" corresponding to a "lever 3901" as amended in the specification.

Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been added by these amendments to the figures.

An annotated version of the amended drawings is attached hereto as Appendix 2 in order to show the changes made herein.

A clean full set of replacement drawings of Figures 1-40I, including the drawing amendments made herein, is attached hereto as Appendix 1.

III. CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

On page 3 of the Office Action, Claims 1-3, 6, 10-12, 24-25, 50-53, 56-58, and 71-80 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,901,263 issued to Gaio, et al (Gaio) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,364,709 B1 issued to Jones (Jones). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

On page 5 of the Office Action, Claims 4-5 and 7-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gaio in view of Jones and in further view of U.S. Patent 6,335,869 B1 issued to Branch, et al. (Branch). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Applicant has cancelled rejected claims 1-8, 10-12, 24-25, 50-53, 56-58, and 71-80 without prejudice in order to bring prosecution to a close in the present application over the allowed and allowable claims. Applicant intends to put forward the cancelled claims in a continuation application and respond accordingly to these claim rejections.

In view of the cancellation of the rejected claims, Applicant believes that these claim rejections are now moot and respectfully request their withdrawal.

IV. OBJECTED CLAIMS

Claims 9, 13-23, and 54-55 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated in the Office Action to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant has amended claims 9, 13, and 54 into independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any

intervening claim. Applicant respectfully submits that this amendment to claims 9, 13, and 54 makes the objection moot as to these claims and that they are in condition for allowance.

Claims 14-23 depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 13.

Claim 55 depends directly from independent claim 54.

Applicant believes that it has placed independent claims 13 and 54 in condition for allowance such that dependent claims 14-13 and 55 depending respectively therefrom are also in condition for allowance.

Applicant respectfully request the withdrawal of the objection to claims 9, 13-23, and 54-55.

V. ALLOWED CLAIMS

Applicant acknowledges the allowability of claims 59-70 and respectfully thanks the Examiner for such indication.

VI. NEW CLAIMS

Applicant has added new dependent claims 81-96.

New dependent claims 81-92 depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 9. Claims 81-87 correspond to cancelled claims 2-8 but depend from independent claim 9 instead of independent claim 1. Claims 88-90 correspond to cancelled claims 10-12 but depend from claim 9 instead. Claims 91-92 correspond to cancelled claims 24-25 but depend from claim 9 instead.

New dependent claims 93-96 depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 54. Claims 93-95 correspond to cancelled claims

51-53 but depend from independent claim 54 instead of independent claim 50. Claim 96 corresponds to cancelled claim 56 but depends from claim 54 instead.

Applicant has amended claims 9 and 54 into independent form to overcome a claim objection and believes they are now in condition for allowance.

Thus, Applicant believes that with independent claims 9 and 54 in condition for allowance, dependent claims 81-92 and 93-96 depending respectively therefrom with further limitations are also in condition for allowance.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that new dependent claims 81-96 are also in condition for allowance.

VII. ELECTRONIC INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS

The Office Action objected to information disclosure statements filed on 09/20/2002 (paper no. 6) and 09/24/2002 (paper no. 7), electronically submitted information disclosure statements, for failing to comply with 376 CFR 1.98(a)(2) which requires a legible copy of each U.S. and foreign patent, each publication or that portion which caused it to be listed; and all other information or that portion which caused it to be listed. Applicant respectfully traverses.

"Information disclosure statements (IDS) may be electronically submitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO or Office) via the Office's Electronic Filing System (EFS). When making such an EFS submission of an IDS, ***paper copies of U.S. patents and U.S. patent application publications*** cited in the IDS ***will no longer have to be supplied*** by applicants."

(emphasis added) [USPTO Office Gazette Notice, 17 September 2002, "Electronic Submission of Information Disclosure Statements", Summary, Appendix 3]. Cited U.S. Patent documents in electronically submitted information disclosure statements are supposed to be made readily available to Examiners by the USPTO. This is part of the USPTO's goal of reducing the amount of paper handling. Of course, Foreign references and other types of publications cited in an Information Disclosure Statement require submission of a hard copy by mail.

Electronic Information Disclosure Statement ("EIDS") forms generated by the electronic filing system of the USPTO include a note above the cited US Patent Documents that states, "Applicant is not required to submit a paper copy of cited US Patent Documents". [For Example, see page 2 of Appendix 4 attached hereto].

For these reasons, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the objection to the electronic information disclosure statements filed on 09/20/2002 (paper no. 6) and 09/24/2002 (paper no. 7) and consideration of the references cited therein.

In addition to the electronic information disclosure statements filed on 09/20/2002 (paper no. 6) and 09/24/2002 (paper no. 7), Applicant filed electronic information disclosure statements on 09/19/2002, 09/23/2002, 05/08/2003, and 05/15/2003 which may have not yet been considered by the Examiner.

The EIDS filed on 09/19/2002 is attached hereto as Appendix 4. Note that the cited references U.S. Pat. No. 5,901,263 and 6,335,869 B1 in this EIDS have already been considered by the Examiner as they are cited on the Examiner's Form PTO-892.

The EIDS filed on 09/23/2002 is attached hereto as Appendix 5.

The EIDS filed on 05/08/2003, prior to the mailing of the Office Action on 06/19/2003, is attached hereto as Appendix 6.

The EIDS filed on 05/15/2003, prior to the mailing of the Office Action on 06/19/2003, is attached hereto as Appendix 7.

Applicant respectfully requests consideration of the cited references in the electronic information disclosure statements filed electronically on 09/19/2002, 09/20/2002 (paper no. 6), 09/23/2002, 09/24/2002 (paper no. 7), 05/08/2003, and 05/15/2003. Please return a copy of the initialed Form 1449 equivalent for Applicants records in each case.

CONCLUSION

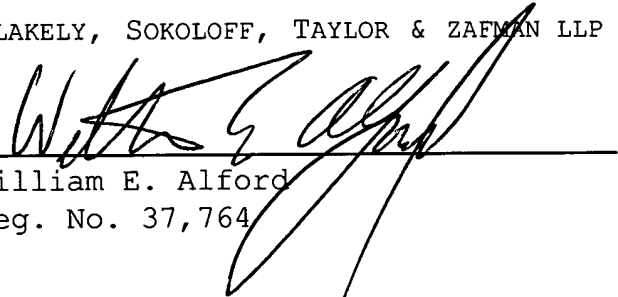
In view of the foregoing it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejections and objections is requested. Allowance of the claims at an early date is solicited.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned counsel by telephone at (714) 557-3800 to expedite the prosecution of this case should there be any unresolved matters remaining. To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 02-2666 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: October 17, 2003

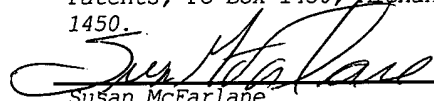


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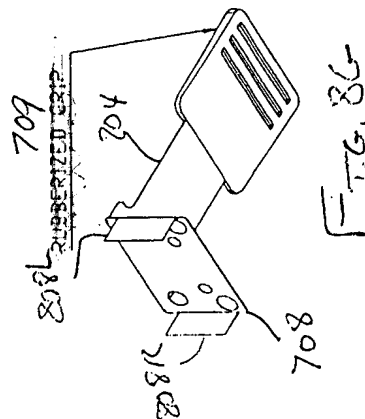
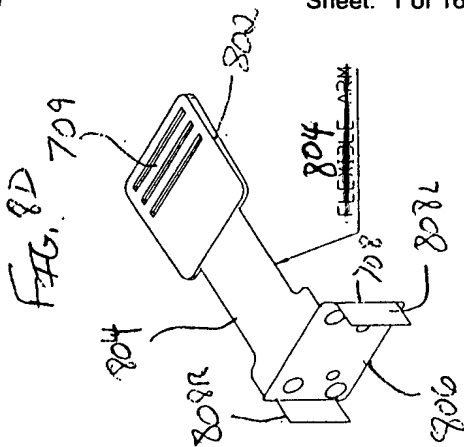
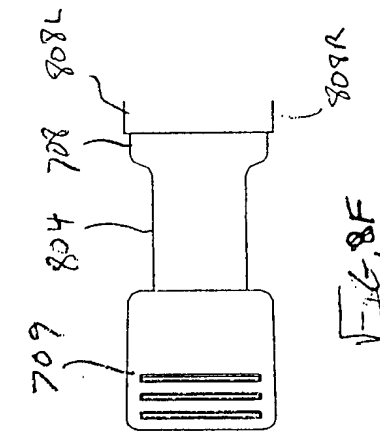
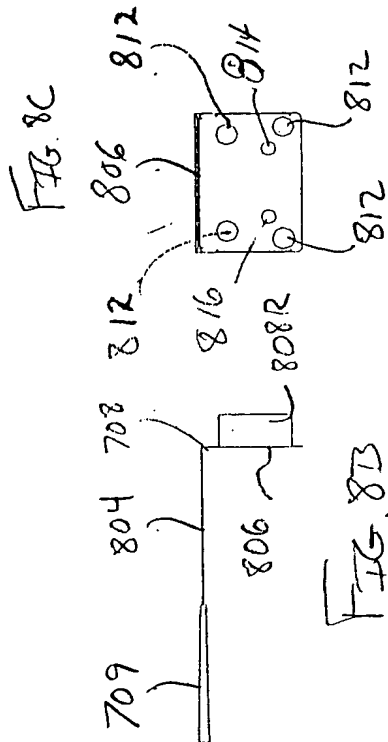
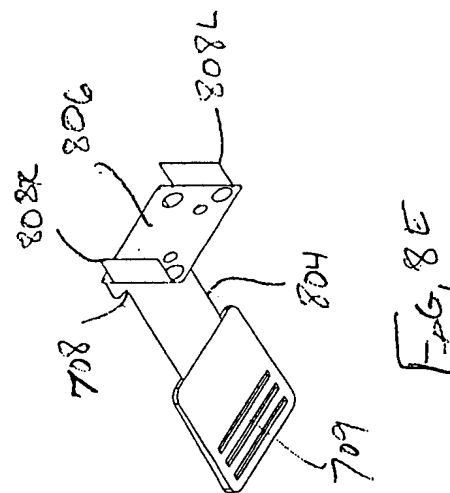
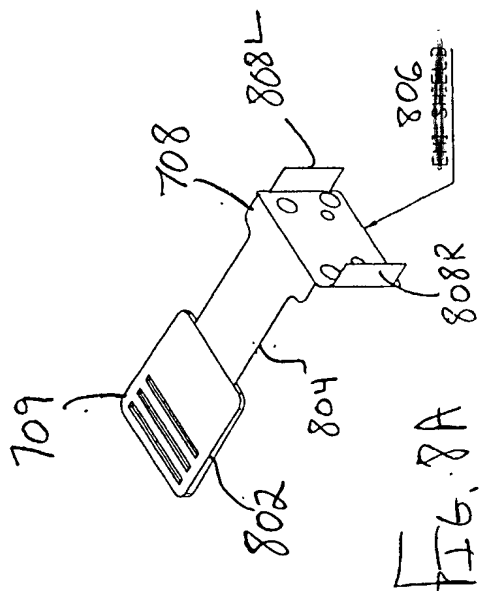
Susan McFarlane
10/17/03
Date

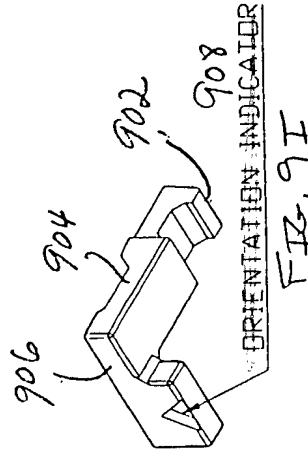
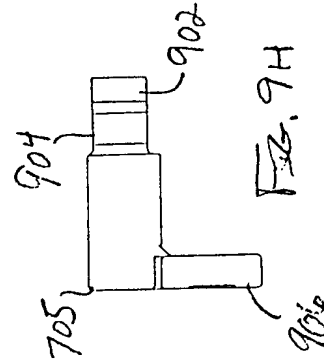
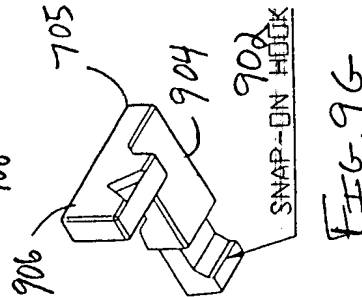
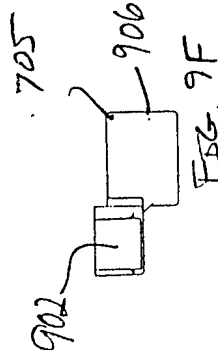
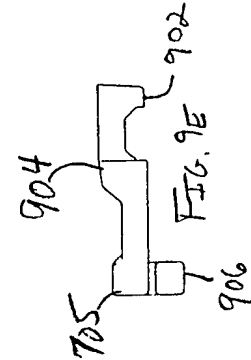
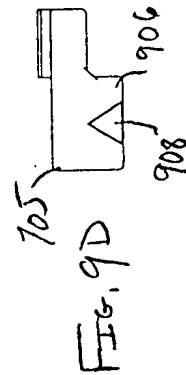
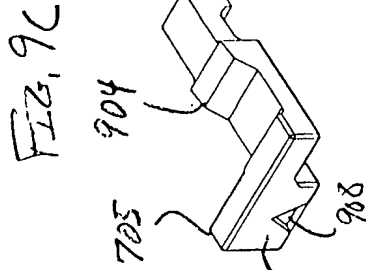
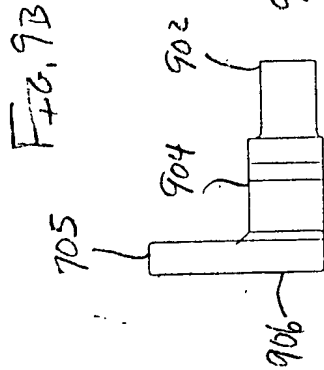
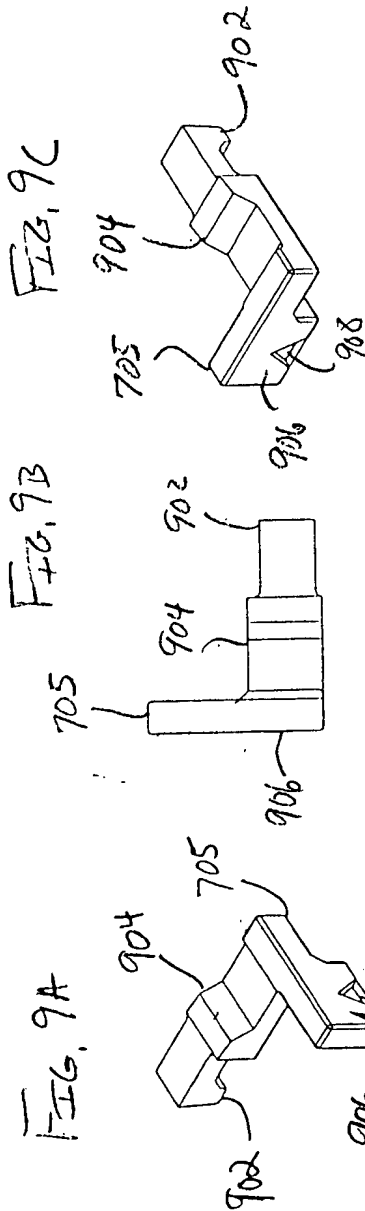
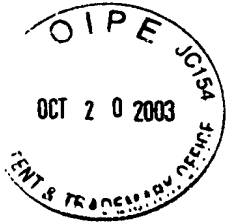
Appendix 2

ANNOTATED SHEETS OF AMENDED DRAWINGS

FIGURES

8A, 8D, 8G, 9A, 9G, 9I, 10A, 10D, 10E, 11C, 13A, 18D, 22B, 27B,
27C, 29F, 33A-33D, 34A, 34C, 34E, 35A, 35E, 35G, 36A, 36C, 36G,
38E, 39A, 39B, 39C, 39D, 39F, 39G, 39H, 40B, and 40D





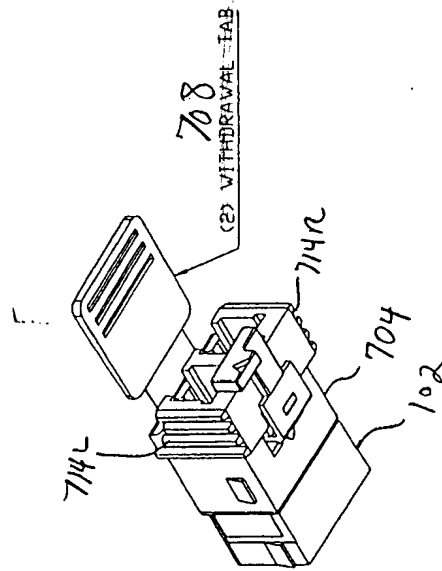
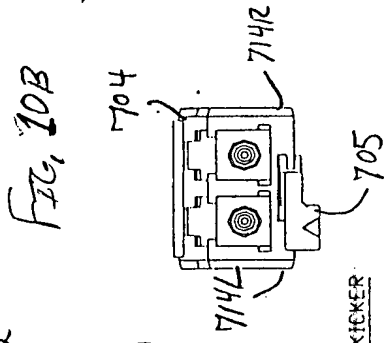
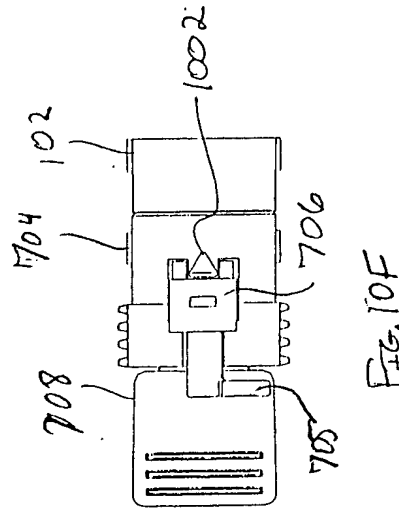
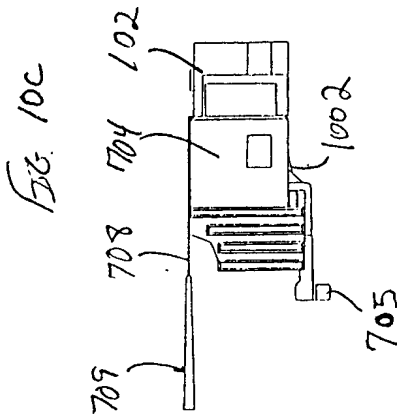
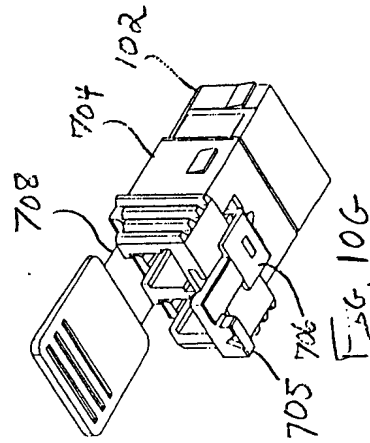
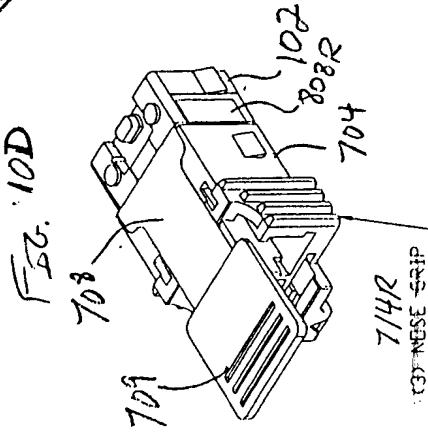
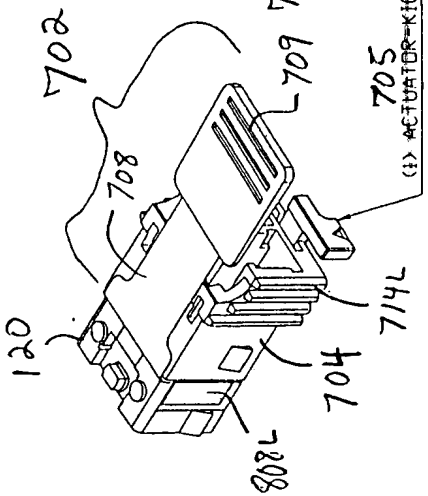
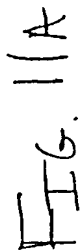
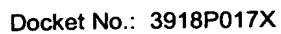
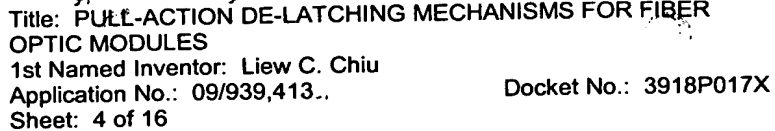
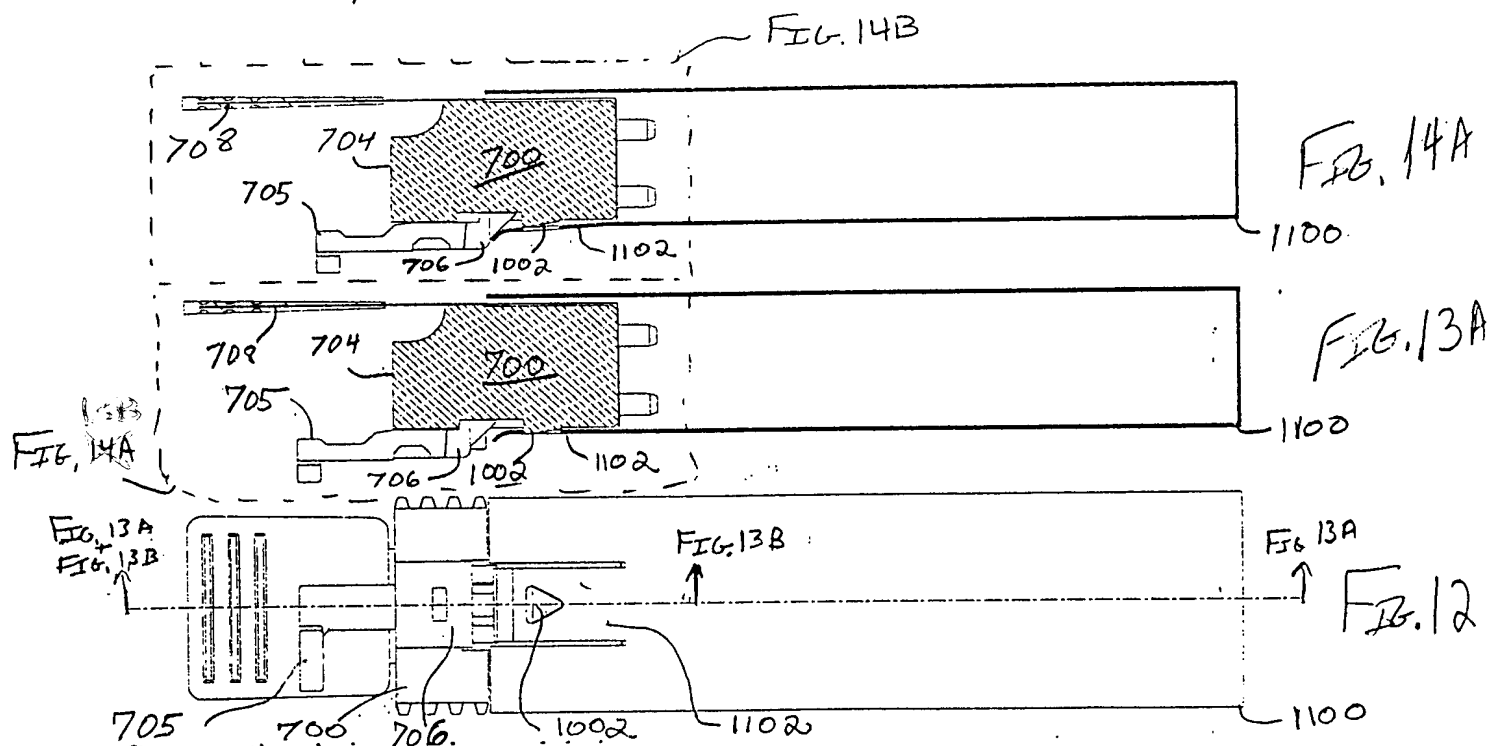
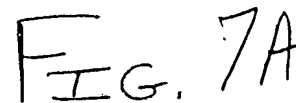
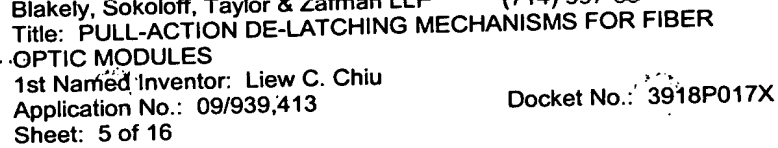
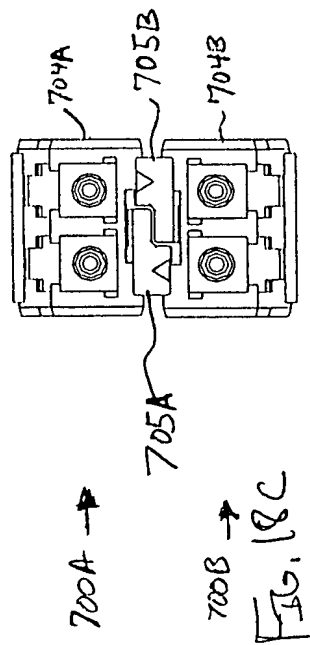
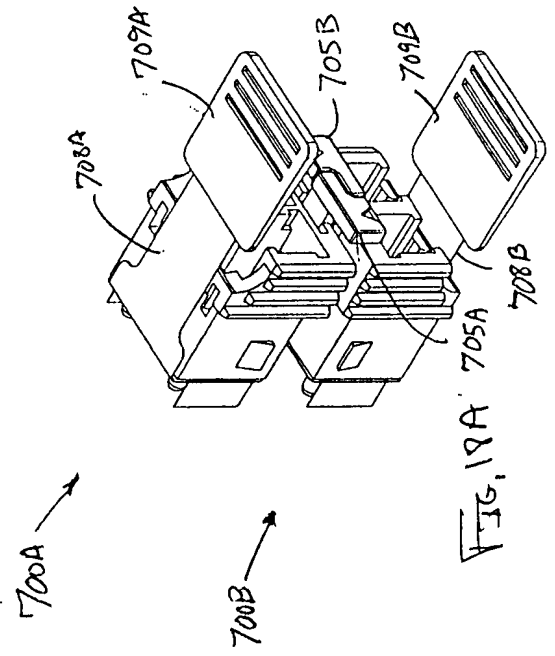
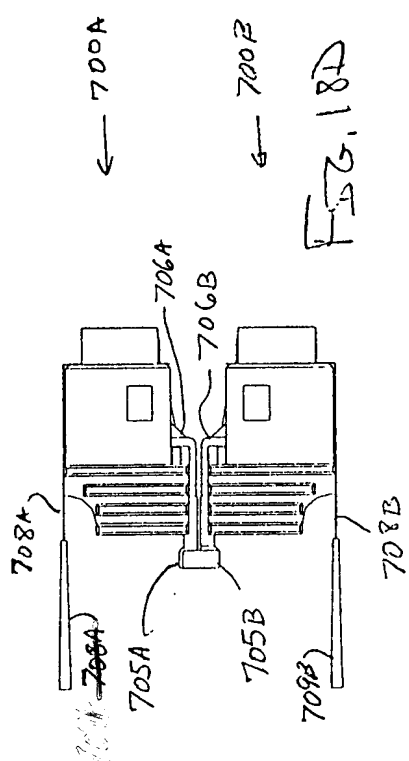
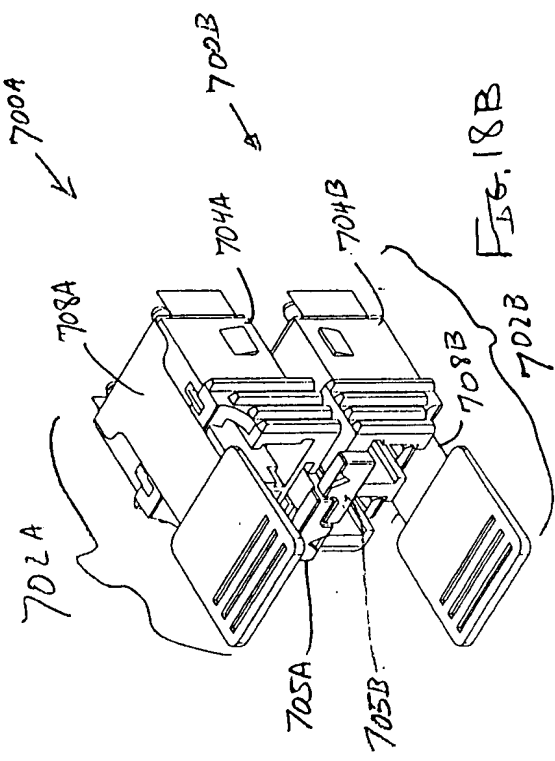


FIG. 10A









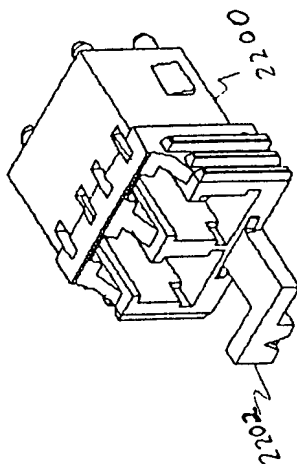


FIG. 22D

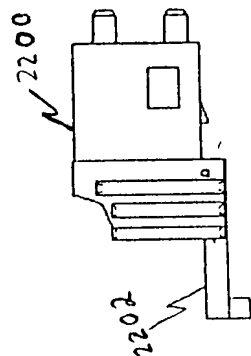


FIG. 22C

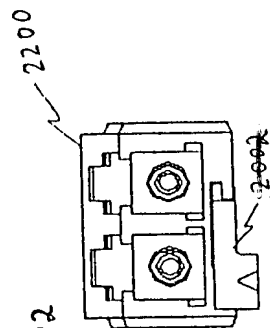


FIG. 22B

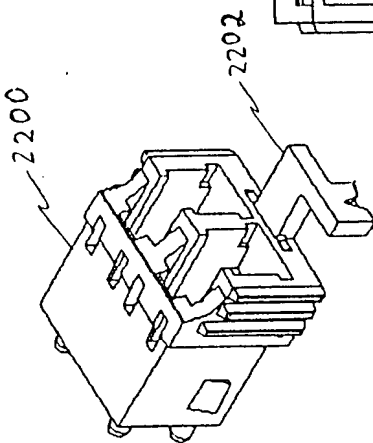


FIG. 22A

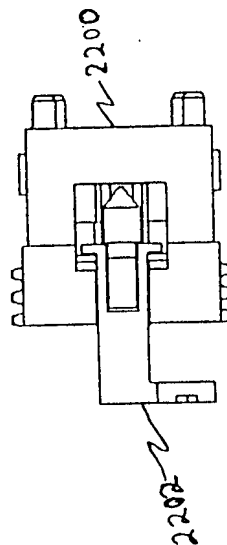


FIG. 22F

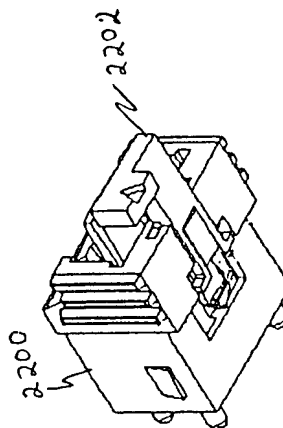


FIG. 22E

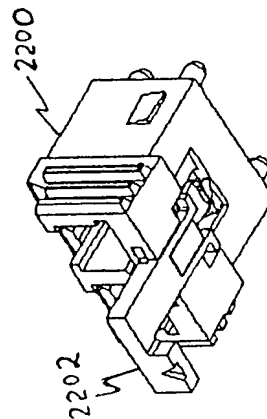


FIG. 22G

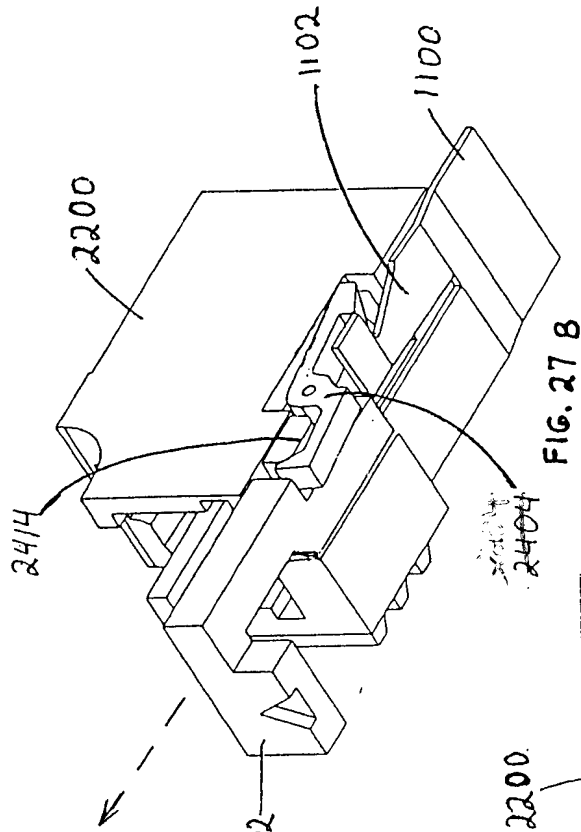


FIG. 27 B

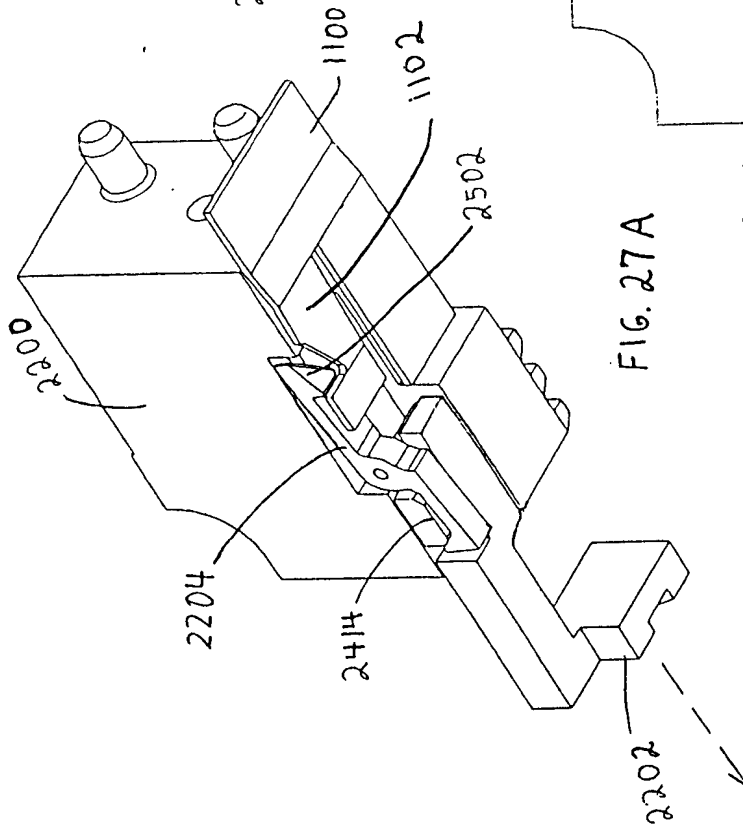


FIG. 27 A

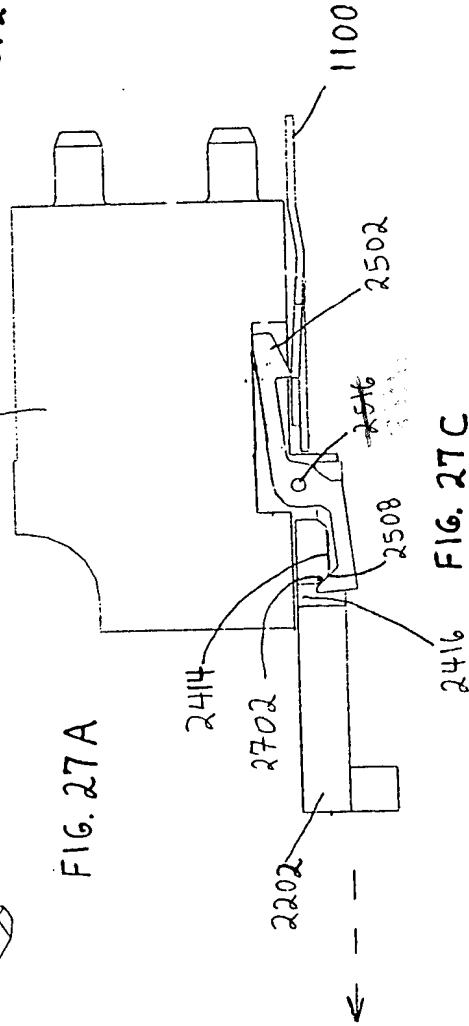


FIG. 27 C

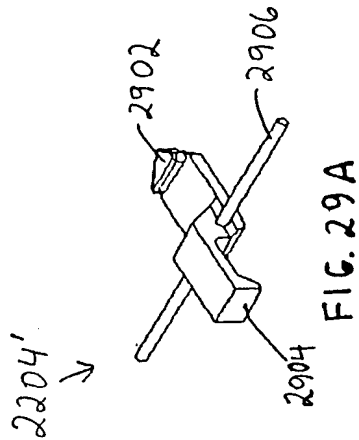


FIG. 29A

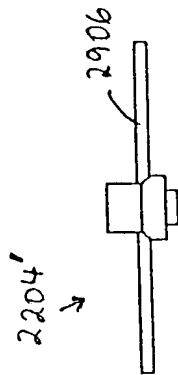


FIG. 29D

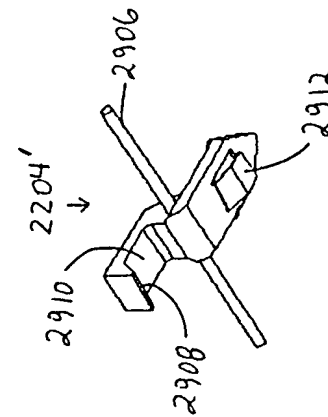


FIG. 29G

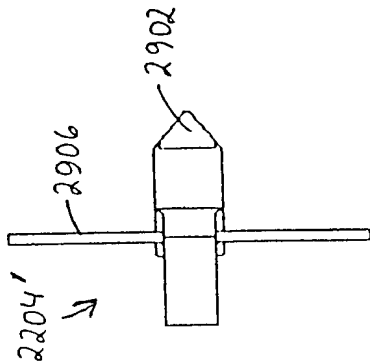


FIG. 29B

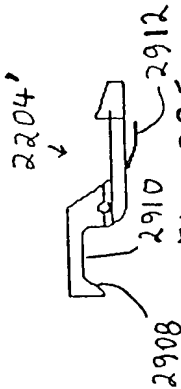


FIG. 29E

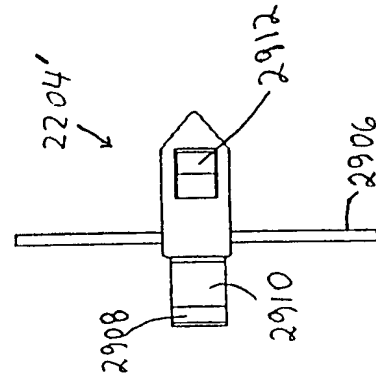


FIG. 29H

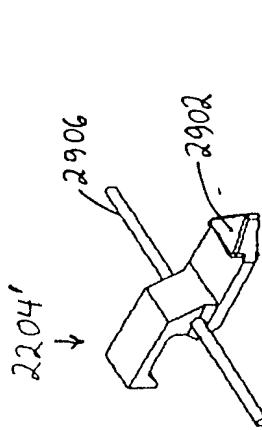


FIG. 29C

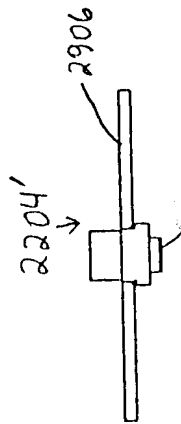


FIG. 29F

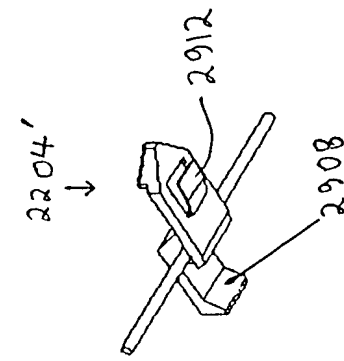


FIG. 29I

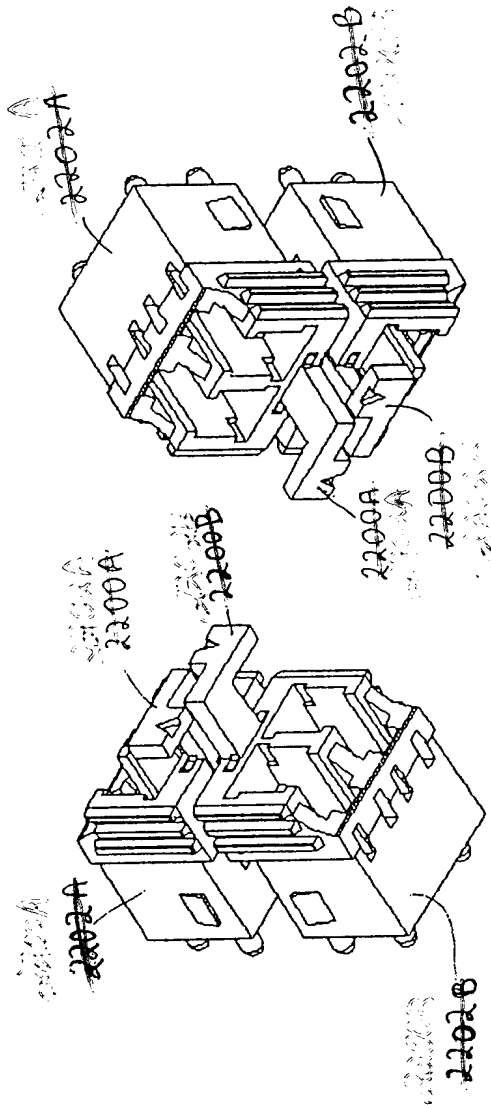


FIG. 33 B

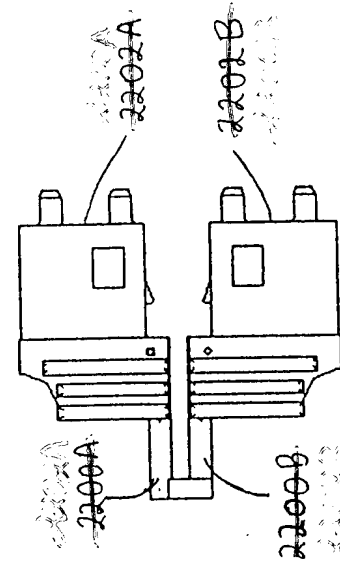


FIG. 33 D

FIG. 33 A

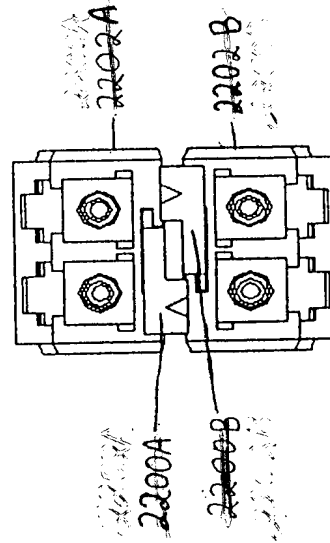
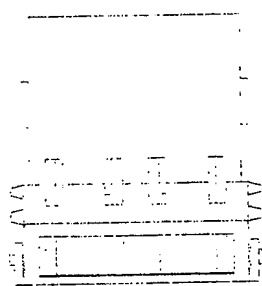


FIG. 33 C



FIG. 34B



3402

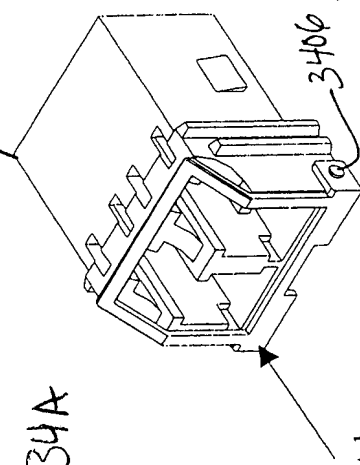


FIG. 34A

Barrel Latch
3404

FIG. 34E

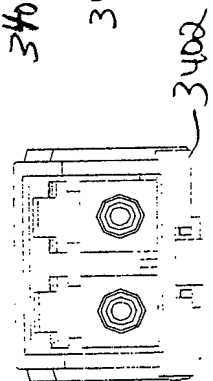
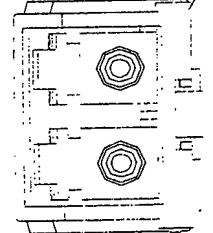


FIG. 34H



Pivoting Pin
3406

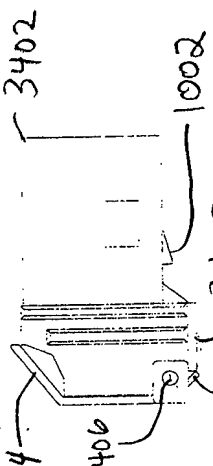


FIG. 34D

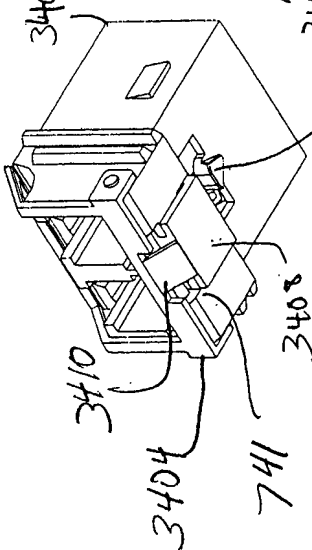
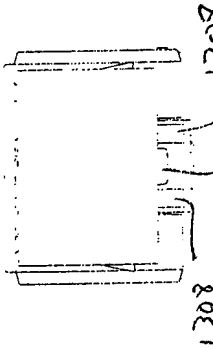


FIG. 34G

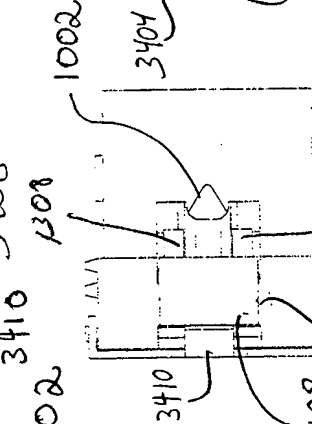


FIG. 34F

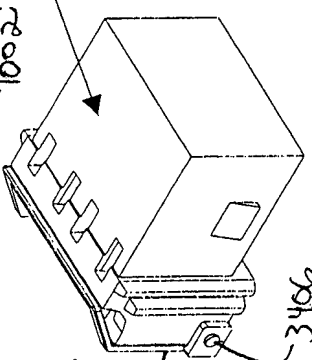
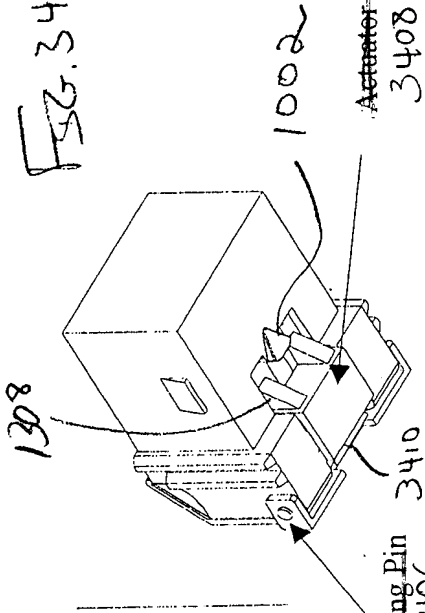


FIG. 34E

Nose/Receptacle
3402

FIG. 34C



Actuator
3408

1308

1002

3410

3402

1002

3408

3410

3402

3410

3404

741

3408

1002

3408

3410

1308

3404

3406

1308

1002



FIG. 36C

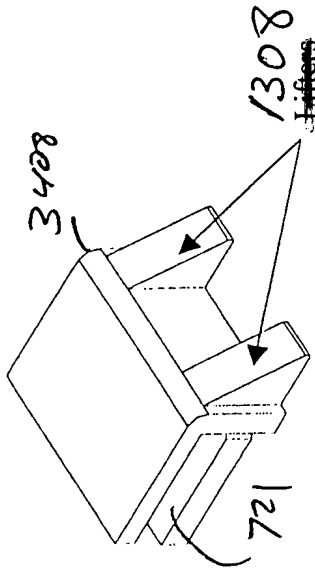


FIG. 36D

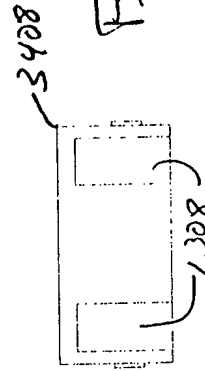


FIG. 36E

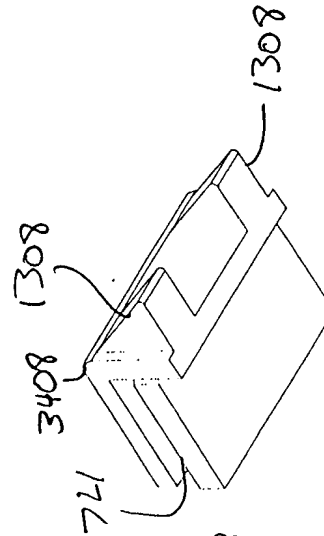


FIG. 36F

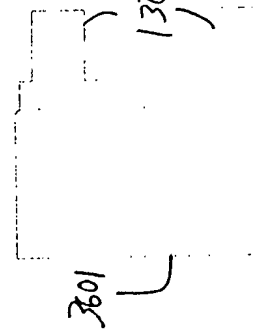


FIG. 36B

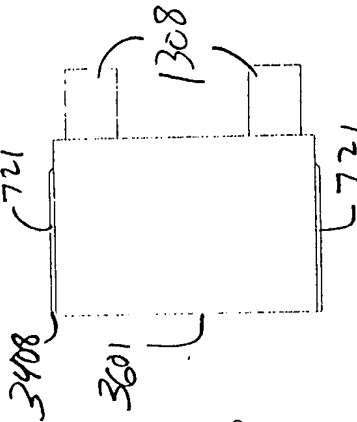


FIG. 36F

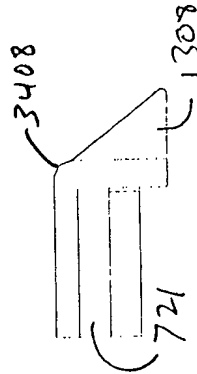


FIG. 36A

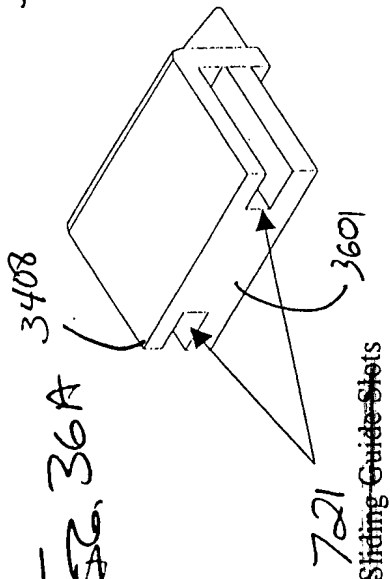


FIG. 36H

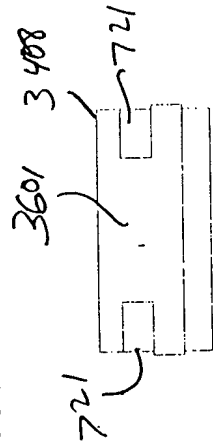
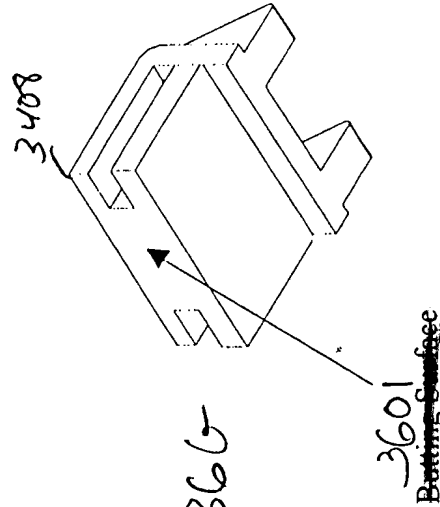
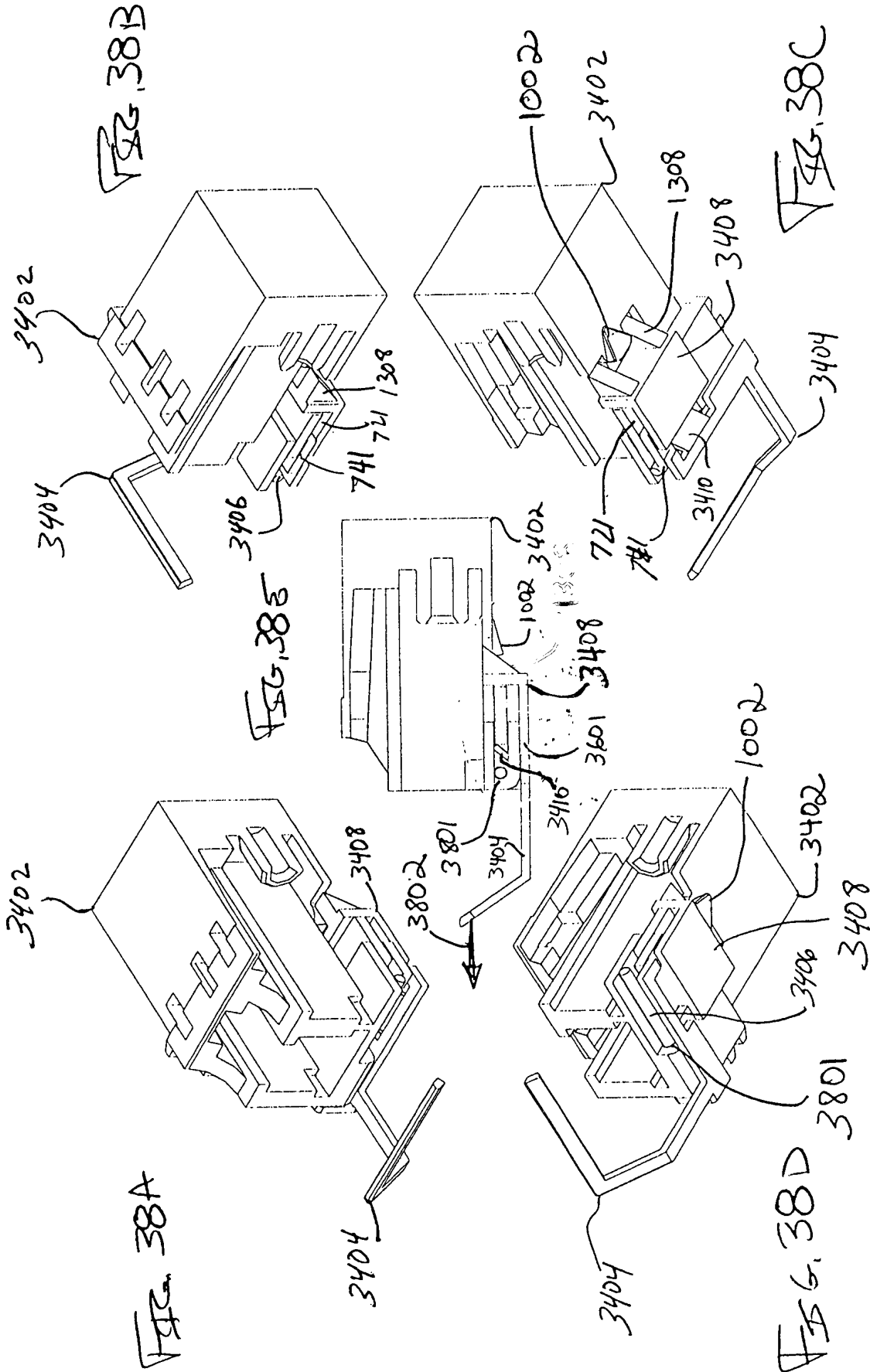


FIG. 36G





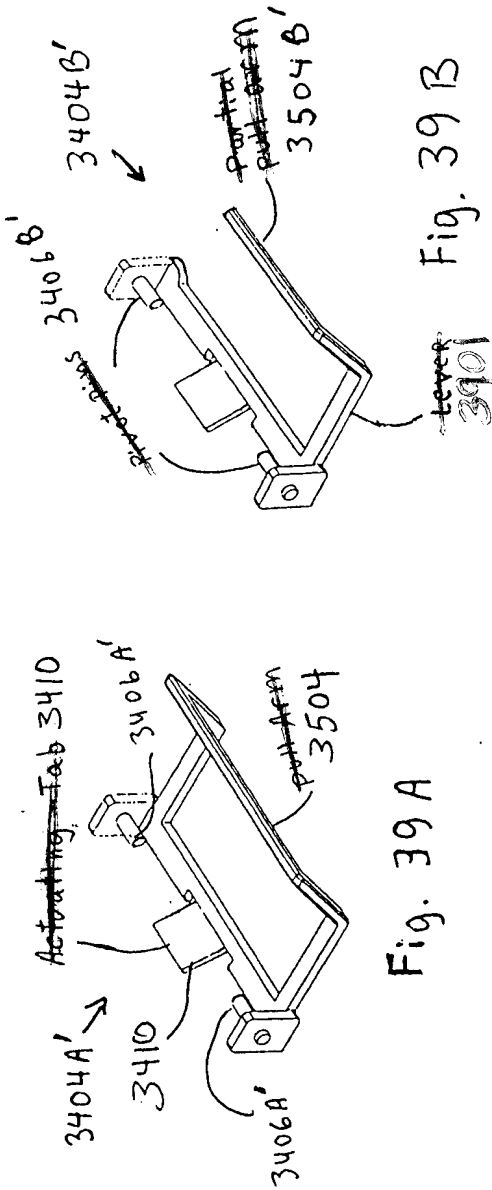


Fig. 39C

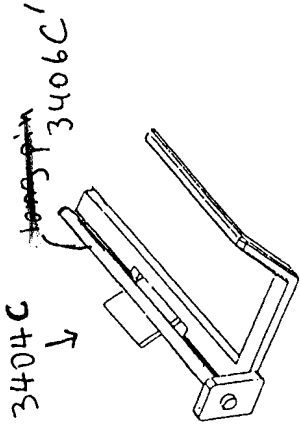


Fig. 39B

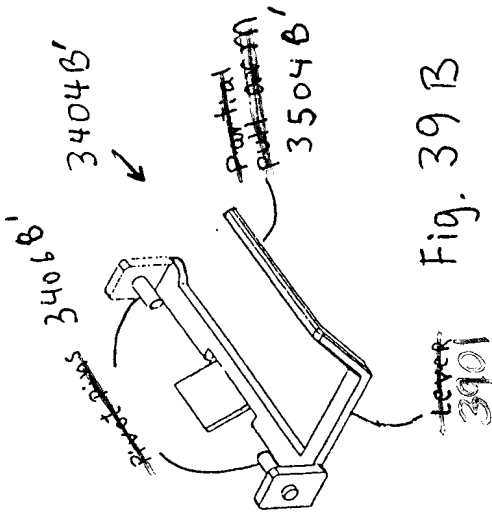


Fig. 39E

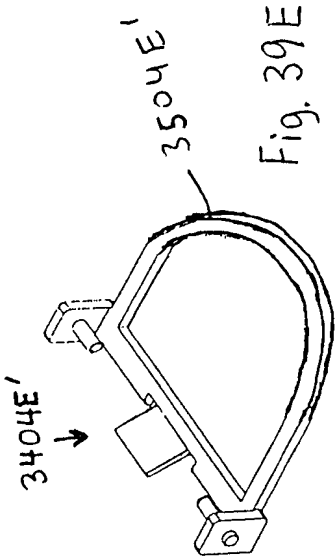


Fig. 39D

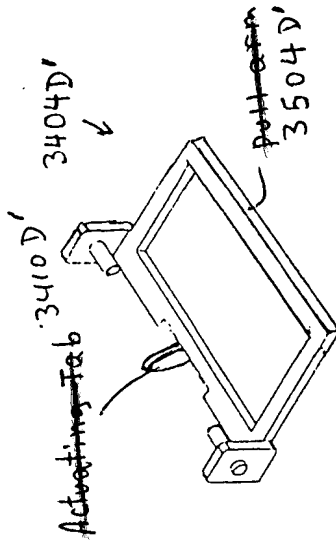


Fig. 39H

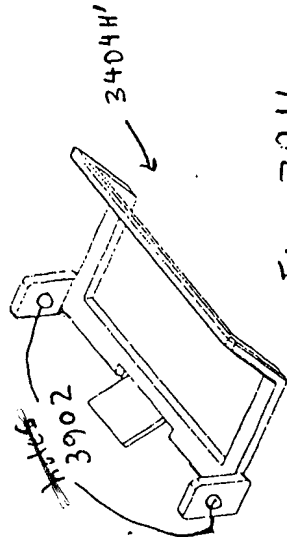


Fig. 39G

